

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /004 W

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P R 051816Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8654

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 0015

USIA FOR IOP/M, ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION RE ANGOLA AND CUBA

REF: PORT OF SPAIN 3094

THE SUNDA6, JANUARY 4, EDITION OF TRINIDAD'S INFLUENTIAL DAILY "GUARDIAN" CARRIED STRONG AND LENGTHY COMMENT ON CRITICISM BY THE LOCAL DEMOCRATIC ACTION CONGRESS (DAC) PPOLITCAL PARTY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S STAND ON THE SOVIET-SUPPORTED CUBAN AIRLIFT TO ANGOLA. SUPPORTING TRINIDAD'S BAN ON FACILITATION OF R THE CUBAN FLIGHTS, THE GUARDIAN SAID "THE COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIPS OF THE FORCES ON BOTH SIDES MAKE IT NO SIMPLE MATTER FOR ANYONE TO DECIDE JUST WHAT TO DO BUT DAC'S SIMPLISTIC CONDEMNATION WILL NTO HELP MATTERS." THE PAPER SAID "THE DAC MAY HAVE COME TO A FAR DIFFERENT CONCLUSION IF THEY WERE IN CHARGE OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY."

CONTINUING, THE GUARDIAN SAID, "WE ALL KNOW HOW THE RUSSIANS HAVE CRUCIFIED THE POPULATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE AND HOW THEY BRUTALLY REPRESS THE DEMOCRATIC STRVINGS OF THEIR OWN PEOPLES...FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION, OF MOVEMENT, OF WORSHIP, OF SPEECH ARE ALL DEAD IN RUSSIA AND TO A LESSER EXTENT IN CUBA."

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"WHATEVER THE FAULTS OF TRINIDAD'S PRESENT GOVERNMENT MAY BE," THE PAPER SAID, "THEY HAVE NOT GONE BEYOND THE LIMITS NECESSARY UNDER THE LAW TO CONTAIN SUBVERSION, INSURRECTION, SEDITION AND LIKE ACTIVITIES."

THE GUARDIAN SAID "THE CLEAR LESSON FROM THE DAC OUTBURST IS THAT THEY WOULD BE QUITE WILLING TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR RUSSIA TO GAIN A FOOTHOLD IN AFRICA THROUGH AN MPLA VICTORY AND USE ITS MIGHT TO MAKE LIFE MISERABLE FOR THE ANGOLANS WHILE POSING AN ETERNAL BLOODY THREAT TO THE WHOLE CONTINENT."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTO00015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760002-1135
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760186/aaaacyoy.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PORT OF SPAIN 3094
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION RE ANGOLA AND CUBA
TAGS: PFOR, TD, AO, CU, UR
To: USIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006